

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02801 122226Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 PRS-01 /027 W

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O P 122134Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7973

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2801

LIMA FOR ASST SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP PFOR VE

SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS' TRIP PLANS

REF: STATE 48980; CARACAS 2082; STATE 52753

1. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR ARRIVAL MARCH 15. WHEN I RAISED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR MARCH 11 THE SUBJECT OF YOUR APPOINTMENTS HE TOLD ME HE HAD REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT FOR YOU TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ BUT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY. I EXPECT THE APPOINTMENT WILL MATERIALIZE FOR SOME TIME SATURDAY EVENING MARCH 15. ESCOVAR SPOKE IN TERMS OF GIVING YOU ON SUNDAY MARCH 16 A WORKING BREAKFAST OR POSSIBLY LUNCHEON, AT WHICH MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF WOULD BE PRESENT. I BELIEVE HIS PLANS IN THIS RESPECT WILL CRYSTALLIZE ONCE HE RECEIVES WORD WHEN THE PRESIDENT WILL RECEIVE YOU.

2. DUE TO THE BRIEF DURATION OF YOUR VISIT, AND THE FACT THAT IT WILL OCCUR OVER THE WEEKEND, WE ARE UNABLE TO ARRANGE FOR A MORE EXTENDED SCHEDULE. PRESIDENT PEREZ AND MUCH OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL LEAVE CARACAS MARCH 17 FOR A STATE VISIT TO MEXICO, AND SOME GOV OFFICIALS WILL ALREADY HAVE LEFT CARACAS FOR MEXICO EVEN BEFORE YOU ARRIVE. THE RESIDENCE IS AT YOUR AND BENTLEY'S DISPOSAL, AND YOU MAY WANT TO HAVE AN INFORMAL DINNER THERE SATURDAY NIGHT WITH DIEGO ASECIO AND KEY MEMBERS OF THE

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COUNTRY TEAM.

3. CHARGE ASECIO WILL GIVE YOU A LETTER FROM ME DISCUSSING THE ISSUES CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICAN TRIP RAISED IN STATE 52753.

4. OUR ATTACHE AIRCRAFT WILL BE READY TO TAKE YOU TO BOGOTA ON SUNDAY MARCH 16. WE SUGGEST YOU LEAVE MAIQUETFA NO LATER THAN 1430 HOURS IN ORDER TO ARRIVE IN BOGOTA BEFORE DARK. THE AIRCRAFT IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL TO RETURN YOU TO CARACAS ON MONDAY MARCH 17, BUT IF YOU DO NOT NEED TO RETURN TO CARACAS, BEARING IN MIND THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ AND HIS LARGE ENTOURAGE LEAVE CARACAS FOR MEXICO THAT DAY, AMBASSADOR VAKY'S SUGGESTION (PARA 4, BOGOTA 2144) FOR YOU TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON DIRECTLY FROM BOGOTA ON MARCH 17 SEEMS SENSIBLE.

5. WE EXPECT ON ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT YOU WILL ENCOUNTER REPORTERS WHO WILL BE CERTAIN TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO CARACAS AND WHEN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SHLAUDEMAN WILL ARRIVE. SINCE YOU WILL LEAVE FOR BOGOTA ON SUNDAY, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO SCHEDULE A PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE.

6. I REGRET THAT I WILL NOT BE ON HAND TO WELCOME YOU BUT I KNOW DIEGO ASECIO AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE YOUR VISIT.
MCCLINTOCK

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